If imaginative hopes were abundantly invested in Irish Nationalism, finding a belated reverberation in London railway stations and telephone call-boxes wrecked by German bombs to the greater glory of a United Ireland, even more abundantly were they invested in the Soviet regime. There, in the U.S.S.R., human progress was visibly being made; there a perfect society was in rapid and evident process of coming to pass. Successive Five-Year Plans enchanted, wall-newspapers were counted for righteousness; hospitals, creches, Parks of Culture and Rest, Lenin Corners and anti-God museums, all were pronounced excellent. Even the zoos, Dr. Vevers, Superintendent of the London Zoological Society reported, astounded visitors by reason of the excellent condition of their animals; while a public schoolboy, when he visited the U.S.S.R., noticed that culture was universal there, and that mere policemen read Dickens and Shakespeare.[12]

It is unlikely that any administrative measures of the Soviet Government, however cruel and tyrannical, would have seriously perturbed its admirers abroad; but when it began to heap obloquy upon, and to exterminate, its own, doubts were implanted and admiration faltered. A series of political trials involving many

Down to the tune ofO'DonnellAbu,
When nations are empty up there at the top,
When order has weakened and faction is strong,
Time for us all, boys, to hit on a tune, hoys,
Take to the road and go marching along.

In spite of, or perhaps because of, these later authoritarian sympathies, Yeats was one of the few pre-War romantic poets who met with the approval of post-War Marxist poets; he and Gerard Manley Hopkins, a Jesuit, escaped the contempt lavished upon most of their contemporaries.

[12] See *For Peace and Friendship,* the Report of the Second National Congress of Peace and Friendship with the U.S.S.R., held in London on March 13 and 14, 1937, and addressed, among others, by the Duchess of Atholl, Miss Eleanor Rathhonc, the Dean of Canterbury and Mr. G. D. H. Cole. Their pronouncements on this and other like occasions make curious reading in the light of subsequent developments.